

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of recognizing a fingerprint comprising:
 - 2 detecting the fingerprint;
 - 3 digitizing the fingerprint;
 - 4 subtracting a digitized background from the fingerprint, resulting in a
 - 5 difference print;
 - 6 identifying an individual associated with the difference print.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 detecting a background; and
 - 3 digitizing the background, resulting in the digitized background.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 initializing a fingerprint recognition system when the fingerprint
 - 3 recognition system is initially turned on;
 - 4 detecting a first background when the fingerprint recognition system is
 - 5 being initialized;
 - 6 digitizing the first background; and
 - 7 detecting a new background after the fingerprint is detected; and
 - 8 digitizing the new background.